

REPORT (PART II)

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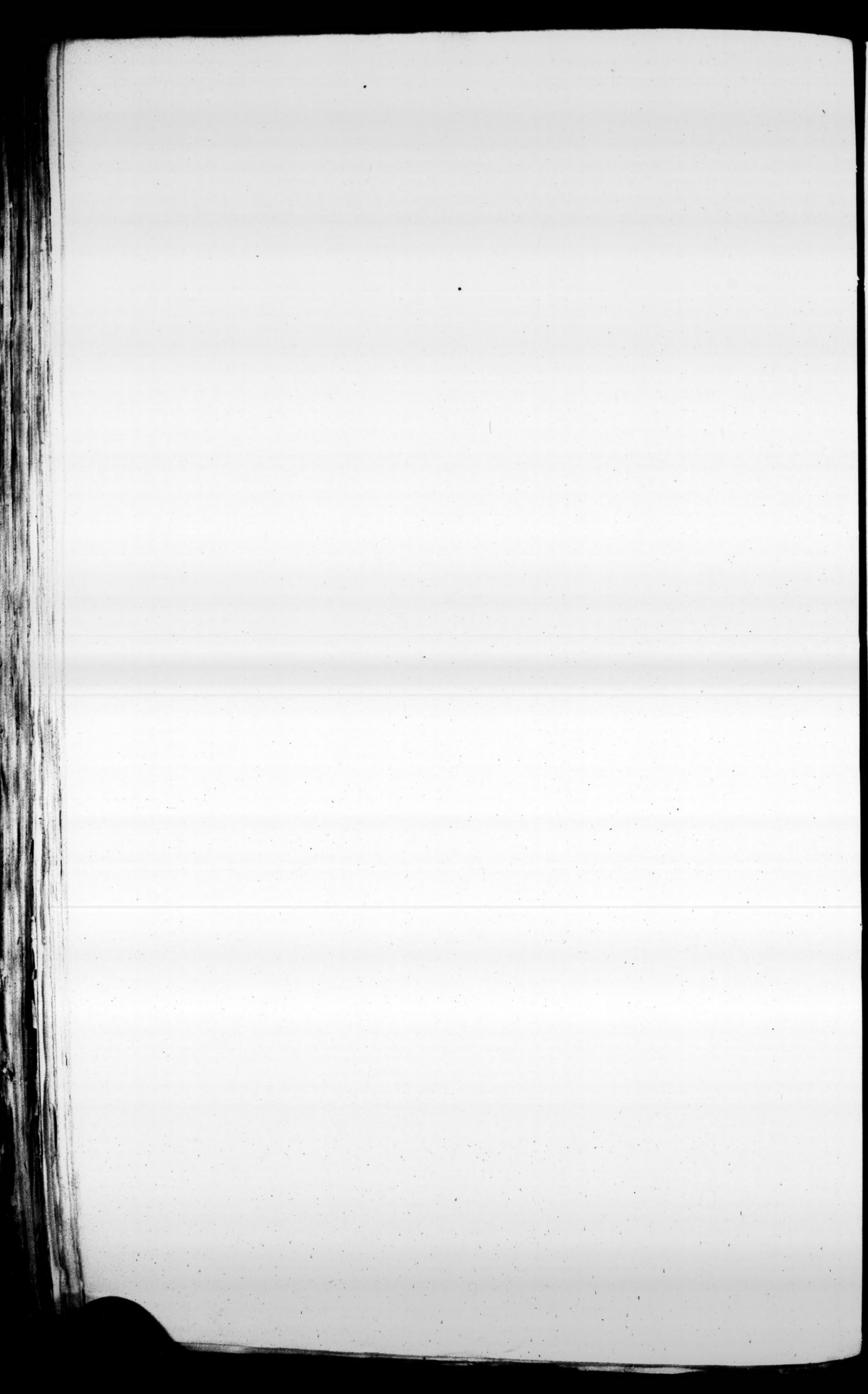
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 23rd August 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1152. Referring to conscription in Afghanistan, to which the Afghans are opposed, and which question is at present held in abeyance while certain alternative proposals are under the Amir's consideration, the *Bengalee* writes—

"In these days even an Afghan Amir finds that there are limitations to his despotism. The Government of India is perhaps the only administration under the sun that can afford to treat with indifference the wishes and the feelings of the people."

BENGALEE,
19th Aug. 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Police.

1153. Before there can be any police reform in the real sense, the *Bengalee* is of opinion that the policy which prevailed long before Sir Charles Elliott publicly propounded it in Bengal, and which continues to remain so, of "No conviction, No promotion," must be abandoned. The journal describes the ways of the Indian Police resulting from the carrying out of this system of regulating promotion.

BENGALEE,
22nd Aug. 1902.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

1154. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* goes over the facts of this case once more, with reference to the comments made on it by the *Statesman*, and says that it is indeed a huge scandal, and every true-hearted Englishman will feel ashamed of this extraordinary performance of a countryman of his, entrusted with the sacred duty of administering justice.

1155. The *Indian Empire*, referring to it, says that the severity of the sentence, considering the frivolous and unsustainable character of the charge, fairly takes one's breath away. Even a short sojourn in jail to a man of the position and respectability of the Lala Someshwar Das is most likely, says the journal, to cause death. It warns natives of India against coming in contact with Europeans, or, for the matter of that, persons bearing European names. It may cost them their lives.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th Aug. 1902.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
19th Aug. 1902.

(d)—Education.

1156. The *Reis and Rayyet* considers the report of the Universities Commission a lucid document, well thought out and clearly expressed, and that it contains some really good suggestions in which the Indian public will heartily concur. Its opinion, however, is that the net result of giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission will be detrimental to the best interests of education in this country. In the first place all power will henceforth be centralized in the hands of the Government, and the Universities will be departmentalized and made the educational bureaus of the Government with their attendant evils of centralization and cast-iron uniformity and encouragement of mediocrity. It will also effectually close the University to the majority of Indian students, and thus once for all stop the further advancement of learning in this country.

REIS AND RAYYET,
16th Aug. 1902.

1157. According to the report of the Universities Commission, Indians, says the *Behar News*, are henceforth to be educated not for their own good but for the good of the Empire.

BEHAR NEWS,
16th Aug. 1902.

"As to the policy of the educational scheme, the less said of it the better. It is pity that policy should ever seek to separate itself from justice. And that policy cannot be called just which aims at depriving the middle class of India of the benefits of high education; for education of this kind is a substantial boon to people of this class; it is only one of the accomplishments of the rich. It tends to create an educated caste, and the pity of it is that it has the sanction of men who denounce caste-system of any shade and description as an unmitigated evil. It goes to steep in the darkness of ignorance and barbarism a land which in its worst days even has been

remarkable for its culture, in order that a few scattered lights may serve just to make the darkness visible. The most regrettable feature of the thing is that this backward policy is advocated by men who march under the banner, whereon are inscribed in golden letters, culture, progress, enlightenment."

INDIAN MIRROR,
16th Aug. 1902.

1158. The *Indian Mirror* is convinced that, like Mrs. Partington, it will be impossible for the Viceroy or his Council or the Secretary of State to stem the tide of educational progress. In spite of repressive measures, the progress must advance. The journal commends to Lord Curzon's study the past literature on the subject, and cites the opinion of the *Times of India*, an Anglo-Indian paper, 'not a native concern,' on the spirit which led to the appointment of the Commission under Lord Ripon in 1882, and that which prompted the constitution of the recent Universities Commission. Progress was the key-word of the former, Repression that of the latter.

INDIAN MIRROR,
18th Aug. 1902.

1159. Continuing its remarks on this subject, the same journal recommends in this article the minute of Sir Charles Trevelyan to the attention of Lord Curzon, and, while quoting passages from that document, says that whereas the *Government is afraid lest education should shake its stability*, Sir Charles feared no such catastrophe. In the days of that statesman, who was a more "far-reaching judge of the relative relations between Englishmen and Indians than the pigmy politicians of to-day," Bengal, which enjoyed the advantages of higher education, was then what all India is to-day, loyal and inspired with the ideal of federation in the British Empire. But at that period Imperialism was not even talked of. To-day it is blatant, and the foremost Imperialists believe that repression and not education is the saving factor of India.

"And so," says the journal, "while we resent the efforts of Government to stifle liberty and to deprive the land of educational benefits, we can still afford to smile. We can wait and depend on the adjudication of Providence and the sure purposes of His Moral Law."

INDIAN NATION,
18th Aug. 1902.

1160. The *Indian Nation* is glad to observe that the public have at last roused themselves to the importance of the subject of the recommendations made by the Indian Universities Commission, and intend to hold a public meeting next Friday. The question is of national importance, and while the journal acknowledges the earnestness of the Commissioners to improve the quality of education, it finds they have been misled in some matters by their imperfect acquaintance with the social and economic circumstances of the country. It recommends the adoption of a temperate tone at the meeting, a fearless criticism combined with frank acknowledgement of the reforming spirit and intentions of the Government and the Commission.

INDIAN NATION,
18th Aug. 1902.

1161. The same paper, continuing its notice of this Report, does not approve of the suggested rule that transfers shall not be permitted in the middle of a session. Such a rule will operate harshly on students who may have made a foolish choice in the selection of a college, and as most boys know nothing of the quality of the men employed in a college and of the work done there till they have been there some time, it will be very hard if they must be made to pay the penalty and continue to be in the college where they find they cannot get on.

It next objects to the suggested appointment of the Director of Public Instruction as Vice-Chairman of the University. This step will interfere with the independence of the University and render it official-ridden. It vests the Director of Public Instruction with the power to prevent new colleges from coming into existence and to kill existing colleges. This is hardly fair in view of the fact that in this country Government is the proprietor of colleges, and the fate of rival private institutions depends upon the pleasure of Government.

Finally, it remarks in a general way that such of the recommendations of the Government as appear to be intended or calculated to protect or advance the proprietary and pecuniary interests of Government appear as the reverse of dignified. The shop-keeping spirit is incompatible with the true spirit of Government, for authority and competition do not go well together.

1162. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* bewails the withdrawal of higher education in India and of the transference of the control of the Education Department to the hands of European officials. It may happen that by this means loyalty will be better taught and Indian youths might pass examinations in loyalty, while "many a Lee Warner will have an opportunity of making an additional pile by the sale of their books"; but nevertheless the emasculation of Indian youths will continue.

Regarding the scheme of technical education now under preparation by the Government of India, the journal quotes the *Morning Leader* (England)—

"We fear the Anglo-Indian authorities are much more likely to try, by means of technical instruction, to supplement the secondary and higher education which they dislike and fear. That would be a disastrous manœuvre, and public opinion here should be ready to prevent it."

It remarks that, if the object of the alleged technical instruction is to make the higher classes of Indians a mere race of mechanics and agriculturists, by depriving them of the benefits of Western literature and science, it can never accord any support to the scheme.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th Aug. 1902.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

1163. The *Bengalee* calls the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the fact that, although the Calcutta Corporation Engineer's revised estimates for the balance of the work left unexecuted by Burn & Co., viz., 3,525 feet of suburban sewers, and the erection of a syphon under Tolly's Nulla amounted together to Rs. 1,18,000, the General Committee as well as the Commissioners have accepted the tender of the same firm, which was the only one which tendered, for Rs. 3,72,994, fully 3 times (or 300 per cent.) the amount of the estimates prepared by their own responsible experts.

It desires that this huge scandal be looked into by His Honour and stopped.

BENGALEE,
17th Aug. 1902.

1164. The *Indian Nation* describes the office of the Deputy Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation as a perfect anomaly, utterly useless and nondescript, partaking somewhat of the character of the offices of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Collector, Assessor, Engineer, and Health Officer. The appointment of such an officer leads to confusion, and the journal has never been able to understand why the Corporation should have a Deputy Chairman at all, nor how Sir John Woodburn perpetuates this needless encumbrance on the money of rate-payers.

INDIAN NATION,
18th Aug. 1902.

The Deputy Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation.
The *Indian Empire*, referring to the conviction under section 426, Indian Penal Code, of Babu A. C. Roy, Building Surveyor of District No. 1, in the case brought against him by one Thakur Dass Dutt, of Dhania Bagan Road, says that the unfortunate Thakur Das, who earns Rs. 20 a month, has been out of pocket by about Rs. 200, for the case lasted over 3 months.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
19th Aug. 1902.

"But what has been the loss to Babu A. C. Roy? So far, we are aware, practically nothing. He was defended at the cost of the Corporation, Messrs. Sanderson and Co. appearing for him. And even after his conviction apparently no notice of his conduct has been taken. He is roaming at large as before, perhaps trying again to show "a little zid" upon some other unfortunate rate-payer.

"One word more before we conclude. What are we to say of a Deputy Chairman who may be thus easily hoodwinked by a subordinate officer to exercise the vast summary powers delegated to him by the Chairman? Is he entertained simply to draw his pay and give sanction for the prosecution of the rate-payers and the demolition of their buildings without thoroughly understanding each case? If he works in the way he has done in connection with the case under notice, then he will himself understand, without our telling him so, what a source of trouble he is to the rate-payers."

(h)—General.

BENGALEE,
16th Aug. 1902.

1166. The *Bengalee* calls attention to Rai Parvati Sankar Rai Chaudhuri's scheme of village corn banks, known as *Dharma golas*, which has been successfully applied to the needs of the village communities in his zamindari.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1902.

1167. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* characterises as unfair, unjust and extraordinary, the supersession of two Indian Judges, Messrs. Baroda Charan Mitra and Kedar Nath Roy, by Messrs. Maude and Geake, two Executive Officers who have been appointed District and Sessions Judges of the 2nd grade. It explains that this is another instance in which the Government encourages the Executive at the cost of the Judicial, and sets a European above an Indian officer.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th Aug. 1902.

1168. Reverting to this subject, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the explanation of Government is probably that the two appointments are only temporary measures and not meant in the nature of supersessions. "Would they have dared to make such temporary appointments if two European Judges were concerned? It is two 'native' judges and who cares"; that is the feeling says the *Patrika*. It appeals to Sir John Woodburn to protect his Indian subordinates from his arbitrary Secretaries, who are usurping his rights.

BENGALEE.
19th Aug. 1902.

1169. The *Bengalee* compares Lord Curzon's utterances as Viceroy-elect with his actual work as Viceroy, and finds that he Lord Curzon's Indian policy. who professed great sympathy for Oriental races, and was going to introduce an era of peace and prosperity to which India was so long a stranger, has struck deep, deeper than any of his predecessors in office, at the most cherished institutions of this country. His policy has been distinctly retrograde in its tendency, as, for instance, in his abolition of Local Self-Government in Calcutta and now in his attitude towards education. The result of putting into practice the proposals of the recent Commission will be an increase of discontent, and the throwing back of the country fifty years. Will Lord Curzon allow his name to be associated with such a measure?

BENGALEE,
19th Aug. 1902.

1170. The *Bengalee* advocates the formation of a company to set on foot a tanning industry in this country, using only the Wanted a tanning industry in latest and most improved methods and apparatus, this country. and conducted under able supervision. India is rich in the possession of raw materials, as also of tanning materials, so that in a short time such a company will be able to declare very handsome dividends.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th Aug. 1902.

1171. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* wishes to know what the Government has done to stamp out crime committed by Magistrates and the Police. If a layman had done what the Magistrate of Puri performed with regard to the arrest of the Raja, the entire machinery of the Government would have been set in motion to vindicate the law. But as the Magistrate was concerned, the Government looked on with indifference, its passion for stamping out crime having vanished altogether. We are informed that when the Raja of Puri was moved to withdraw his complaint against the Police, he said that he would do so if Mr. Garrett were transferred from Puri. This proposal, we are told, shocked the authorities. What! Mr. Garrett transferred simply because an outrage has been committed upon the Raja? Never! Where, then, is the justice of British Government? Where is the high sense of honour of the British people? Where is the safety of the subjects of His Majesty? And where is the Government itself?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Aug. 1902.

1172. Referring to Sir John Woodburn's visit to Oudh to do honour to the memory of the late Maharaja Man Singh, which Sir John Woodburn's sympathy. will be memorable and always be gratefully remembered in India, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that there is another act of Sir John's which is more memorable, viz., his speech in the Imperial Legislative Council on the duty of reforming the police, which has laid bare his heart, and shows how keenly he feels for the people. What, however, is wanted by the people after sympathy, is assuredly protection, and it is for protection

from executive oppression that the journal appeals to His Honour mentioning the Kharagpur and Puri cases to show to what lengths young Magistrates can go.

1173. In connection with the marginally-noted case, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* ventures to think that in no case should this old widow of 80, who is a *purda-nashin* lady, have been compelled to appear in court in a *palkee* or otherwise in any proceedings under Chapters VIII(A) and (B)X and XI of the Criminal Procedure Code.

It approves of the Landholders' Association bringing this gross miscarriage of justice to the notice of the Bengal Government, as a sense of insecurity prevails throughout the country owing to the tyranny of the Police and high-handedness of the magistracy.

1174. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—

Vivisection. "So, after all, after a series of half-hearted disclaimers, Lord Curzon's Government has identified itself openly with the Kasauli Institute, that is, with vivisection. The donation by Government of fifty thousand rupees to the Institute is proof thereof. Among the minor donors are the Governments of Punjab, Central Provinces, Assam, the United Provinces, and Burma. We notice with pleasure that the Bombay and Madras Governments have flatly refused to contribute. We gather our information from a Lahore telegram, and cannot say more till we have detailed information on the subject."

III.—LEGISLATION.

1175. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses its approval of the result of the Bhagalpur election. Rai Tarini Prasad Bahadur is a most popular man and will render himself very useful in Council if he can persuade His Honour to issue a mandate to District Officers enjoining them to bring about the settlement of longstanding disputes in their respective jurisdictions.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1176. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is surprised that Indian papers are inviting the Government to interfere in the dispute between the Dowager Maharani of Indore and the Maharaja Holkar.

Interference of Government in disputes in Native States. "The Indian States represent our nationality, they give evidence of the existence of the Hindus as a nation. They are therefore very dear to us." These papers, it argues, must have lost all feeling of nationality and self-respect to have recommended such a course.

1177. The *Bengalee* characterises as "preposterous" the proposal that a number of young Princes of India will act as Pages to the Viceroy at the Coronation Durbar at Delhi. It says—"No Indian Chief would consider it other than derogatory to his dignity to be asked to figure in this Imperial show in the position of a Page. Some of the Princes may not be bold enough to refuse the request for fear of giving offence to the Viceroy, but we can assure His Excellency that they will, one and all, resent it as forming part of a scheme for lowering their position. Rightly or wrongly, the impression widely prevails that there is too much of the Kaiser William style in Lord Curzon's treatment of the Feudatory Chiefs, and though the Chiefs may not give articulate expression to the pent-up feelings of their hearts, there can be no doubt as to the existence of those feelings, and we should be truly sorry if they were to be deepened—perhaps we might say, *further* deepened—by any thoughtless and impolitic act of the kind said to be contemplated by Lord Curzon."

1178. In view of the evident dissatisfaction in certain quarters as to the manner in which the Lieutenant-Governor has dealt with this case, relying, as he is reported to have done, upon the report of a mere junior officer, The Viceroy and the Hill Tippera succession. the *Bengalee* is sure, whatever might be the report submitted to His Excellency, Lord Curzon is not the man to decide so momentous a question without going into the papers and the Foreign Office records bearing on the case. The

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
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INDIAN MIRROR,
21st Aug. 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
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PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1902.

BENGALEE,
17th Aug. 1902.

BENGALEE,
21st Aug. 1902.

journal feels sure His Excellency will do the most scrupulous justice. Aitchison and the overwhelming evidence of a hundred years of British records, judicial and political, place beyond all doubt the invariable custom that on the death of the Raja, the Jubraj becomes the Raja and the Bara Thakur becomes the Jubraj, even to the exclusion of natural heirs. It is therefore a comparatively easy matter for the Viceroy to deal with the question, and the journal exhorts him to allay all feeling by being just.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BENGALEE,
21st Aug. 1902.

1179. In view of the alarm raised by the *Times of India* that famine is apprehended in the whole of the Bombay Presidency, Apprehended famine in the the *Bengalee* asks whether, if the worst should happen, the Government of India will go on perfecting their arrangements for the Durbar. It would, in its opinion, be the very height of impropriety not to postpone the Delhi Durbar, and imagines it now understands why further publication of the provincial weather forecasts should have so suddenly been stopped.

If it should please Providence to afflict the Bombay Presidency with another visitation of famine, public opinion would demand, it says, the postponement of the Durbar, as it will not do to proclaim the Emperor to the accompaniment of the shrieks and groans of the dying.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
12th Aug. 1902.

1180. The *Weekly Chronicle* (Assam), in writing about the Puri incident lays the blame of the attitude of young Magistrates to the weakness of Government, nay, the implied countenance which the Government of the country, in its over-anxiety for the delicate prestige of the ruling race, extends to its servants by refraining from publicly censuring or punishing them.

The *Chronicle* enquires if these boyish pranks are not object-lessons in lawlessness to the tame people of this tamed land. It appeals to Lord Curzon "to do something to protect the people of this unhappy land against the cruel mercies of the civilian masters of the situation."

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
12th Aug. 1902.

1181. The *Weekly Chronicle* (Assam) calls it a piece of monumental meanness on England's part to saddle India with a portion of the cost of the India Office Coronation entertainment. When one thinks of the sums spent in the late war and the wheedling of the Boers out of their independence by a show of boundless resources, the uncomfortable thought forces itself upon one's mind, says the journal, that after all the national resources and the much-vaunted wealth of Britain are so many dead sea apples, tan outside and rotten within.

The *Chronicle* then demurs to the expenditure of such a large sum of money on the Delhi Coronation Darbar when there are so many famished, destitute and helpless mouths to feed.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1902

1182. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains that the letter of the Bengal Government to zamindars in Bengal, offering to help those who are willing to attend the Coronation Darbar at Delhi, is neither an invitation nor a request, direct or indirect, to attend the Darbar.

It is merely an offer of help to those who intend to be present.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Aug. 1902.

1183. Reverting to this circular, the same journal says that the letter is likely to create and has already created misunderstanding, owing to the fact that it is not couched

in the usual clear language of Mr. Buckland. It would have been better to have published the circular in the newspapers for general information, instead of addressing it to individuals who are afraid now to decline the invitation lest the Government should be offended. The *Patrika* assures the zamindars, who are not in a position to go, that the Government will not take it amiss if they fail to attend.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Aug. 1902.

1184. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* protests against the use of the word 'Native' in connection with the Chiefs who have accepted the Viceroy's invitation to the Darbar,

Ibid.
The term 'Native.'

remarking that it was just as easy to call them Indians. It is reminded by the notification in the *Gazette*, where the objectionable term is used, of a paragraph in the *Inter Ocean* of Chicago, which announced that the 'natives' had taken kindly to the Pasteur Institute established in Calcutta.

The impression, it goes on to say, that the paragraph conveys is that the natives of India are, like the natives of Africa or America, savages or semi-savages to whom every step in civilization is an abomination. The Indian, who is thus insulted, is prepared to fight any European, with any weapon from a pin to a canon, provided there is fair play, except a gin bottle. In drinking, the Indians are nowhere when they have to try conclusions with the white races.

1185. Now that the Coronation in England is over, the *Bengalee* compares Treatment of India.

notes and finds that the Indian Prince was not treated as he had expected to be, and that he was

BENGALEE,
16th Aug. 1902.

made to feel that he is an Indian after all. Even the Indian soldier was made to see the difference which in reality exists between them and the cousins of England from the Colonies. And yet both the Indian Prince and the Indian soldier, brown though they may be, are more ready to shed their blood for the honour of England's flag than is the Colonial—England's petted darling for whom nothing is too good. Honours have been heaped upon the Colonials, but the Indian Prince and soldier have been passed over. A golden opportunity for inspiring a feeling of brotherhood and *camaraderie* between Englishmen and Indians was offered but rejected, and India was assigned a place in the show which was not the most dignified and could not fail to wound her self-respect.

The article then proceeds to comment on the incomparable meanness of the India Office action in requiring India to pay for the entertainment given to Indian representatives at the India Office, and asks if the English Cabinet would have dared to place such a burden on any Colonial Exchequer.

1186. The *Indian Mirror* holds that, if for nothing else, at least for the opportunities the Congress annually affords all

The Indian National Congress as a peace-maker.

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th Aug. 1902.

India to meet face to face and exchange individual thoughts and ideas, the Indian National Congress has come to be regarded as an extremely desirable and needful institution. To those who attend them, the journal appeals that, if they can carry away a little of the spirit of brotherliness and sympathy which they imbibe in that Hall of Harmony to their distant homes, and try to introduce it into the surroundings of their own villages, which are torn asunder and distracted by subdued ill-feeling developing into open rupture—they will achieve a most enviable moral triumph.

1187. Commenting on the speculation which is rife as to who shall be

The Indian National Congress. the next President of the Indian National Congress, the *Indian Mirror* suggests that, considering the intense local apathy—in other words dread of the powers that be, and the imminent food and water-famine—it were best to first ascertain if the Congress is at all likely to assemble in Ahmedabad.

INDIAN MIRROR,
22nd Aug. 1902.

1188. The *Indian Mirror* writes that a Company called the "Indian Stores, Limited," is being floated with a capital of 5 lakhs of rupees and a guarantee of some of the most influential names in Bengal, with the object of promoting the manufacture, collection and sale of Indian arts, manufactures and produce, and the establishment of agencies in all parts of India for this purpose.

"It is a patriotic undertaking," writes the journal, "and we hope and trust it will receive national support. It looks as if we Indians are becoming a practical and self-sufficing people after all. May God grant it!"

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Aug. 1902.

1189. The *Indian Mirror* warns students against the practice of taking tickets in the Hamburg Lottery, now being advertised in Bengal, as tending to draw their attention from their studies, to empty their purse, to encourage habits of gambling, and to be most detrimental to them in every way.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th Aug. 1902.

1190. Referring to the Hindu-Buddhist Religious Conference to be held next October in Japan, the *Indian Mirror* considers that the time is ripe for endeavours to be made to put Hindus in touch with other Asiatic countries

INDIAN MIRROR,
22nd Aug. 1902.

which follow Buddhism, as the two religions resemble each other greatly. A restoration should be effected of the relations which obtained over twenty-four centuries ago, when India sent abroad thousands of Hindu missionaries, and was visited by numerous pilgrims from Buddhistic countries. Pali and Sanskrit Indian literature of those days civilised all such countries, and it is strange that India, which stood so high, should now be the least of them. Every advantage should be taken of the forthcoming Conference, and Hindus should spare no pains to contribute to its success.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P., }
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 23rd August 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.